

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Dec 1st

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are presented to the glory of God.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE

11-24-24: 8:00 am: 43 10:30 am: 103 Online: 60 Total: 206
Adult Sunday School: 10 JAM Sunday School: 10

OUR KNOWN HOSPITALIZED:

Eileen Young ~ St. Charles Hospital

PRAYER CHAIN CRITICAL/NEW: Angela, Peggy Burke, Carol Crosser, Dick Crouse, Doris, Ann Dudics, Duke, Norman Eck, Martha Everett, Family of Linda L. Hagedorn, Linda (Stieben) Hagedorn, Jody, Kaitlyn, Deborah Kidwell, Kaylea Kochanski, Rebecca Kohn, Helen K., Paul Lambrecht, Marc LeDuc, Family of Judy Lepiarz, Rick Lepiarz, Diane McGovern, Chad Milner, Sue Moszkowicz, John Puhl, Shonna, Skylar, June Smarkel, Traci Spencer, Marilyn Ulrich, Steve Welling, Dave Wilbarger Sr., Family of Arlene Wilbarger, Donna Winslow, Eileen Young, Anne Zielinski.

****To better manage the prayer chain, only critical and new requests will be printed in the weekly announcements. All ongoing requests will be posted in the lounge, and narthex (lobby), and be included in the monthly newsletter. If you have any additions or changes to the prayer chain, please email office@firststjohn.com****

CALENDAR FOR DEC 1 – DEC 7

Today	8:00 am	- Early Worship Service/Communion
	9:15 am	- Adult Sunday School (lounge)
	9:15 am	- J.A.M. Sunday School (church basement)
	10:30 am	- Late Worship Service
Monday	5:30 pm	- Bell Choir Rehearsal
	6:30 pm	- Altar Guild @ Beth Hugueley's Home
	7:00 pm	- Scouting Ministry Meeting (Room 204)
Tuesday	11:30 am	- Ruth Circle @ Applebee's
Wednesday	11:30 am	- Miriam Circle @ Oregon Inn
Thursday	11:00 am	- Adult Bible Study (lounge)
Saturday	11:30 am	- Rebecca Circle @ Old Bag of Nails

WELCOME TO FIRST ST. JOHN: If you are visiting with us, please sign the guest book, located in the Narthex (lobby).

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please remember to silence your cell phone before church begins. Thanks!

FOR YOUR SECURITY, please make sure to secure any valuables and lock your car. Unfortunately, as a property with heavy foot and car traffic, unlocked vehicles can be an easy target. Lock it up, keep it safe!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us each Sunday after the first service for Adult Sunday School in the lounge at 9:15 am. We will be studying the New Testament lesson from the sermon each week. We hope to see you there!

J.A.M. SUNDAY SCHOOL Join us every Sunday at 9:15 am in the JAM Room in the church basement for children ages 3-5th grade! We hope you will join us!

A NURSERY IS AVAILABLE during the 10:30 am service. The nursery is in the church basement in the kindergarten classroom and will be staffed with 1-2 volunteers each week. Parents/Guardians can fill out a quick release form for children aged 5 and under and feel free to return to service. We will use text messages to communicate with you if a need arises (please keep phones on vibrate only so as not to disrupt service). For more information, or if you have any questions, please feel free to stop down during second service, or reach out to Darlene Paul.

LIVESTREAM SERVICE WEEKLY Did you know that you can watch a livestream of our 10:30 am Sunday Service? You can find it by visiting www.firststjohn.com/LIVE, or by using the Online Worship link in the middle of the home page or the top navigation ('Worship' then 'Online Worship') on any page.

THE ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING will take place after both services on Sunday, December 8th. This will include a 2025 church budget presentation and also a list of new church council candidates to vote on for the 2025 calendar year. All members of FSJ should plan to attend.

FAMILY CHRISTMAS PARTY The Family Christmas party will be held tonight, December 1, 2024, in the gym from 5:30-8pm. Fried baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad and a roll with butter will be served. Karaoke will be the entertainment for the night. We will also hold a raffle basket auction as well with donated items/baskets from those in the congregation. Entertainment provided by karaoke Bobby Haar. Come and sing Christmas tunes and hits from the 50s and 60s. Hope to see you there! See Sue Ann Rogers for more information!

2024 OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD: Thank you to all who donated! We have been participating in this ministry for over 15 years! We were able to donate 54 boxes to be delivered to children across the world. Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter to those in need!

ADOPT-A-FAMILY Each year, we participate in the Adopt-A-Family program sponsored by the East Toledo Family Center. This year we are adopting a family of 8 for Christmas who recently lost everything in a house fire. The children in the family range from ages 2 months to 14 years old. Dad also lost all his fishing gear in the fire, and mom is in need of basic cleaning supplies. To help with this we are collecting Kroger and Amazon gift cards. A Christmas tree is also in the narthex with paper ornaments on them. If you'd like to purchase a gift, select an ornament with the gift you'd like to provide. Keep the top ornament for yourself and then on the ornament behind it write your name and phone number. Then place the ornament with your name on it in the small box next to the trees. No need to wrap the gift. The deadline to return any gifts will be **Sunday, December 15th**. Collection boxes are provided in the narthex and lounge, and gifts can also be dropped off to Jennifer in the church office.

J.A.M.'s CHRISTMAS PROGRAM will be on 2nd service on Sunday, December 15th. If your child is interested in being a part of the program, please make sure that they attend J.A.M. Sunday School each week at 9:15am in the basement as we will be practicing every week!

BE A PART OF OUR SCOUTING MINISTRY! Meets the first Monday of each month at 7pm in Room 204 (Catechism Room). The next meeting is planned for December 2nd at 7pm. We officially have been designated Troop #58! They are in desperate need to fill a few adult volunteer positions so please consider helping to start this ministry which will impact our community. If any questions, please contact Mike @ (419) 262-7583.

OCTOBER FINANCIAL UPDATE For the month of October (2024 - 4 Sundays), FSJ income was \$39,368 & the expenses were \$28,664 for a **positive net result of \$10,704!** FSJ year to date finances has a deficit of \$21,957, which is a 32.8% improvement from last month. All expenses were at budget with custodial services down by 75% due to collection of reimbursement from reduction of summer hours. Thank-you, thank-you church family for your continuous strong support for your church. *Bill Nelson - Treasurer*

MONTHLY MINISTRY This month's monthly ministry focus will be the Isaiah 117 House in Lucas County. The Isaiah 117 project exists to reduce trauma on removal day for children who are being placed in the foster care system. The house helps lighten the load for caseworkers and ease transition into foster care by creating a 'home' environment where children on removal day can go instead of an office while caseworkers work on placement. This home provides the comforts of home and lessens the impact. As this is a new ministry spotlight, the donation envelopes will arrive next week. In the meantime, please use a white offering envelope and write on it that it is to go to the Isaiah 117 House.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST will be held next on Saturday, December 14th at 8:30am at the Woodville Diner. There is room at the table for all so please plan to join us!

SPECIAL MUSIC IN DECEMBER We have two special music guests in December. On Sunday, December 8th at both services, Patricia McCauley will join us again to sing for the Advent season. On Sunday, December 29th during both services, Dana Baker, baritone, will join us again to sing music for the Christmas season. This will be Dana's last time with us as he is moving back to Los Angeles in January. Please make sure not to miss these opportunities which have been provided in part by our congregation's generous donations to the new Special Music Fund.

A QUICK DONATION NOTE When donating to the Monthly Ministry - for example, Toledo Gospel Rescue Mission, it is recommended that you make out your check to First St. John Lutheran Church. Your envelope and/or check memo line should be annotated with "Monthly Ministry" or the name of the ministry for that month. Your check will be deposited to the FSJ account within one week, and your year-end statement will document this donation. When you make your check out to the ministry (such as LDR), it cannot be deposited into a FSJ account. The check will be forwarded to the ministry the following month, and this contribution will not be documented in your year-end statement. *~Financial Secretary*

DECEMBER CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING will be moved up a week to Tuesday, December 10th and will be held in the church lounge.

2024 POINSETTIA SALE is now underway. Please see the order form located in the bulletin or included in the November Newsletter to order. Extra order forms will also be printed in the back of the church. Each poinsettia is \$15 each and you can choose between red or white. The deadline for placing orders in time for Christmas is Sunday, December 15th. **Payment must accompany orders.** Contact Jennifer in the church office for more information (419) 691-7222.

RUTH CIRCLE will meet on Tuesday, December 3rd at 11:30am at Applebee's in Northwood.

MIRIAM CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, December 4th at 11:30am at the Oregon Inn.

REBECCA CIRCLE will meet next on December 7th at the Old Bag of Nails restaurant for their Christmas luncheon at 11:30 am. If you would like to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a \$10 gift.

HANNAH CIRCLE will meet on Wednesday, December 11th at 6:30pm at Debbie Smith's house for a Christmas Party.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY will meet again on Thursday, December 5th and Thursday, December 12th before breaking again for the new year.

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE FUNDRAISER Please consider helping WELCA with their Christmas Cookie Sale that will be held on Sunday, December 15th after both services. To participate and help raise funds plan to bring your baked cookies on Saturday, Dec 14th between 10-12pm. All types of cookies, fudge, bars, or bark accepted. There will be a sign-up sheet available in the lounge on a clipboard. Contact Sue Ann Rogers for more information (419) 280-1310.

PERSONAL NEEDS PANTRY donation item for the month of December are band aids and disposable razors. Items can be deposited in the bright green bin in the lounge or the pull-out drawer in the narthex (lounge) or drop them off at the office during the week.

FSJ PNP PANTRY MEETING We will have a meeting for all current PNP volunteers, and anyone interested in volunteering on Wednesday, December 11th at 11:30 am in the church basement. Please plan to attend if you can. Make sure to bring any conflicts for the 2025 schedule as well. Let Jennifer know if any questions, 419-691-7222.

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP NEEDED: Flowers on Sundays beautify the sanctuary and are dedicated to the glory of God. You can assist by signing up and using this as an opportunity to honor/remember a loved one. The flower sign up book is in the Narthex, \$15/vase, or call the church office. There are also weekly opportunities to honor or remember a loved one by donating the cost of messengers (\$10), homebound outreach (\$10) and chancel lighting (\$15).

MISSION SUNDAY UPDATE Our November Mission Sunday took place on Sunday, November 24th. We again collected canned goods and items for the LSS Food Pantry and also personal needs items for our very own pantry. We collected 85 items for the food pantry and 39 items for the FSJ Personal Needs Pantry! The next collection will be on Sunday, December 15th but feel free to drop items off all month in the bins in the church or at the church office. Thanks for your generosity!

2025 OFFERING ENVELOPES The 2025 envelopes will be available for pick up starting Sunday, December 8th. They will be on the long white tables in the lounge. Even if you contribute using Vanco, you will still get envelopes to be used for special services or other donations if requested.

DAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM COOKIES NEEDED The Day School Christmas Programs are coming up December 16-19th. We realize the church is having a cookie sale on December 15th, but we will also need donations of cookies for the family receptions after the programs. If you could drop off an extra dozen or two, the Day School would really appreciate it! Please plan to drop off by Sunday, December 15th and make sure to label them for the Day School Christmas program. These can be placed in the refrigerator in the lounge if needed. Also, if you could help serve that evening during any of the performances, we would really appreciate it. Please contact Andrea in the Day School office at 419-691-6480.

CHECK OUT A BOOK/DEVOTIONAL! As a reminder, the First St. John Library has a wealth of Christian literature available to be borrowed. A few new books have been donated and are showcased on the table in the lounge. One particular devotional is for caregivers of Alzheimer's and dementia patients. Come check out our book selection on the table in the lounge! For any assistance or questions, please see Emily Kruse or call the office at 419-691-7222.

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION If you or a loved one would like a homebound communion visit please call the church office. Bob Haar is temporarily communing the homebound at their request and he will call you to setup an appointment.

QUILTING MINISTRY The Quilting Group will begin meeting on Monday, January 6th at 9:30am. Most of the help needed involves tying layers of a quilt together (you just need to know how to tie a knot). Bring a sack lunch. If there is bad weather, they follow Oregon Schools for cancellations.

DECEMBER DARTBALL the Dartball teams are back in action next week on December 2nd at 7:30pm at home in the fellowship hall (gym). FSJ Team #1 plays St. Lucas and FSJ Team #2 plays Messiah. Come out and support them!

SPECIAL MUSIC DESIGNATED FUND A special music fund was recently created specifically to support the talented musicians invited to play at our church. Money from this fund will be used at the discretion of Dr. Tony, our Church Musician, when securing guest musicians. To contribute, donate cash or checks made out to First St John Lutheran Church and simply indicate on your envelope and/or check memo line, that your contribution is to be directed to the Special Music Fund.

THE LAYETTE MINISTRY is the Rebecca Circle's mission as part of WELCA. It is an ongoing mission throughout the year. We will be sending this year's donations to hurricane victims in Tennessee and North Carolina. We are so thankful to everyone who donated the beautiful and useful items. Some of the items were donated to the relief efforts for the Hurricane this past week. The layette box will remain in the lounge until the end of the year. Below is a list of the items we accept.

- lightweight cotton t-shirts (no onesies) *
- long or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) *
- receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, between 36" and 52" square
- cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- jacket, sweater, or sweatshirt with a hood, or include baby cap *
- pairs of socks
- hand towel, dark color recommended
- bath size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping (no mini or hotel size bars)
- diaper pins or large safety pins

* **Clothing sizes can be up to 24 months**